

THOMASTON OPERA HOUSE

158 Main Street
Thomaston, CT 06787

**BIG THEATRE
IN A SMALL TOWN**

General Assembly
Committee on Commerce
300 Capital Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Committee Members,

On behalf of Thomaston Opera House, I would like to sincerely thank you for hearing Bill 5882 concerning an act authorizing bonds of the state for various projects, which includes Sec.14, a grant-in-aid to the Town of Thomaston to renovate the Thomaston Opera House.

Thomaston Opera House aims to:

- Providing a wide array of community, educational and professional programs.
- Being an economic catalyst for the community's revitalization
- Preserve, protect and renovate the landmark Opera House

Since its incorporation in 1991, Thomaston Opera House serves over 20,000 patrons each year through a variety of programming. Thomaston Opera House is unique in that it functions on 400 volunteers each year, and provides the surrounding community with an artistic outlet through opportunities to perform, education, and attending the arts. The building itself is a historic landmark, recognized for its Victorian architecture and acclaimed acoustics. Each season's programming includes:

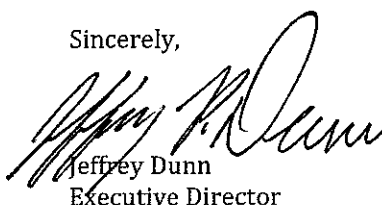
- Full seasons of community theater
- Playwright Project, producing plays from Connecticut's playwrights
- Educational Series, providing first theater experiences to youngsters
- Piano Series
- Organ Concerts
- Keynotes, Piano Series lecture to college students
- OLLI at UCONN Waterbury course surrounding piano series for Life Long Learners

Next year includes expanding our education series to include Musical Theater Education developed around Arts Education National Standards. This program will include producing plays at the middle school and high school as well as a professional partnership program where students are invited to audition for full musical productions and are partnered with artists of the Opera House to gain hands on experience in the profession. This program aims to produce both the performers and the audience of tomorrow.

Through this grant-in-aid you would assist in renovating the stage, developing rehearsal and production space, a new lobby where our community can congregate and events may take place, and preserving a town landmark that serves as an area economic driver, among other capital improvements.

Again, I thank you for hearing this bill and invite you contact the Building Committee Chairman, Richard O'Connell at (860) 283-8361 or me at (860) 283-8558 for any questions concerning the Thomaston Opera House.

Sincerely,


Jeffrey Dunn
Executive Director


Richard O'Connell
Building Committee Chairman

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